



February 9, 2026

To: Chairperson Murman and members of the Education Committee

From: Katie Nungesser, Director of Youth Justice and Child Welfare Policy

**Re: Support of LB 1039, Prohibit school resource officers and security guards from using corporal punishment**

Chairperson Murman and members of the committee,

At the heart of this issue is a shared value: schools should be places of safety, dignity, and care for every child, not places where corporal punishment is used to enforce discipline. For this reason, Voices for Children in Nebraska are in support of LB 1039.

This bill takes a commonsense step to protect children by ensuring that no school resource officer or security guard is permitted to use corporal punishment against a student. Physical force as discipline does not create safety. It creates fear, trauma, and distrust, especially for young people who already experience school as a place of surveillance rather than support.

Schools should be places of learning, belonging, and growth, not spaces where children are subjected to physical punishment by law enforcement or security personnel. When discipline becomes physical, it undermines relationships, escalates conflict, and increases the likelihood of system involvement for youth, particularly for students of color, students with disabilities, and students who have experienced trauma.

LB 1039 draws a clear and appropriate boundary between safety and harm. It affirms that maintaining order in schools must never come at the cost of a child's physical or emotional well-being. True safety is built through de-escalation, trauma-informed practices, restorative approaches, and trusted relationships, not force.

This bill also provides clarity and consistency across schools, ensuring that students are protected regardless of where they attend school in Nebraska. Children deserve the same basic protections in every building, every district, and every community.

We urge the committee to advance LB 1039 as a meaningful step toward safer schools, healthier discipline practices, and a school environment where every child is treated with dignity and respect.

Thank you, Senator Dungan, for continuing to make our schools safe for all kids and to this committee for your time and your commitment to Nebraska's children.